

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1                   1.     A method of communicating between a handheld  
2     computer and other local area computing devices having wireless  
3     communication capability, comprising the steps of:  
4                   providing a handheld computer;  
5                   identifying a plurality of other local area computing devices  
6     having wireless communication capability;  
7                   creating an identifier for one or more of the plurality of other  
8     local area computing devices; and  
9                   listing each identifier on a display, wherein the list is sorted  
10    in order of at least one of distance and direction from the handheld  
11    computer.

1                   2.     The method of claim 1, wherein the handheld  
2     computer is configured to communicate with the plurality of other local  
3     area computing devices utilizing a Bluetooth standard.

1                   3.     The method of claim 1, wherein the handheld  
2     computer is configured to communicate with the plurality of other local  
3     area computing devices utilizing an IEEE 802.11 standard.

1                   4.     The method of claim 1, wherein the handheld  
2     computer is configured to communicate with the plurality of other local  
3     wireless devices utilizing RF signals.

1                   5.     The method of claim 1, wherein the handheld  
2     computer is configured to communicate with the plurality of other local  
3     wireless devices utilizing infrared signals.

1           6.     The method of claim 1, wherein the information  
2     necessary to sort the list by at least one of distance and direction is  
3     provided by electronic pinging between the handheld computer and the  
4     plurality of other local area computing devices.

1           7.     The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of  
2     choosing one or more of the listed identifiers and sharing information with  
3     the local area computing device corresponding to the chosen identifier.

1           8.     A method of sharing information between a handheld  
2     computer and a group of local area computing devices having wireless  
3     communication capability, comprising the steps of:  
4                 specifying a distance;  
5                 identifying one or more local area computing devices having  
6     wireless communication capability within the specified distance from the  
7     handheld computer; and  
8                 transmitting a wireless message to the one or more local  
9     area computing devices having wireless communication capability within  
10    the specified distance.

1           9.     The method of claim 8, wherein the display is a touch  
2     screen display.

1           10.    The method of claim 8, wherein the wireless message  
2     is transmitted utilizing a Bluetooth standard.

1           11.    The method of claim 8, wherein the wireless message  
2     is transmitted utilizing an IEEE 802.11 standard.

1                   12. The method of claim 8, wherein the wireless message  
2 is transmitted utilizing RF signals.

1                   13. The method of claim 8, wherein the wireless message  
2 is transmitted utilizing infrared signals.

1                   14. The method of claim 8, wherein the information  
2 necessary to transmit the wireless message only within the specified  
3 distance is provided by electronic pinging between the handheld computer  
4 and the one or more local area computing devices.

1                   15. The method of claim 8, further comprising the step of  
2 receiving a wireless message from the one or more local area computing  
3 devices having wireless communication capability within the specified  
4 distance.

1                   16. A local area wireless communication device,  
2 comprising:

3                   a housing;  
4                   a processor supported by the housing;  
5                   a memory coupled to the processor;  
6                   a transmitter supported by the housing; and  
7                   a display;

8                   wherein the processor instructs the display to list a plurality  
9 of other computing devices located within range of the transmitter, sorted  
10 in order of at least one of the distance and the direction from the wireless  
11 communication device.

1                   17. The method of claim 16, wherein the display is a  
2 touch screen display.

1                   18. The method of claim 16, wherein the local area  
2 wireless communication device is configured to communicate with the  
3 plurality of other local area computing devices utilizing a Bluetooth  
4 standard.

1                   19. The method of claim 16, wherein the local area  
2 wireless communication device is configured to communicate with the  
3 plurality of other local area computing devices utilizing an IEEE 802.11  
4 standard.

1                   20. The method of claim 16, wherein the local area  
2 wireless communication device is configured to communicate with the  
3 plurality of other local wireless devices utilizing RF signals.

1                   21. The method of claim 16, wherein the local area  
2 wireless communication device is configured to communicate with the  
3 plurality of other local wireless devices utilizing infrared signals.

1                   22. The method of claim 16, wherein the information  
2 necessary to sort the list by at least one of distance and direction is  
3 provided by electronic pinging between the local area wireless  
4 communication device and the plurality of other local area computing  
5 devices.

1                   23. The method of claim 16, wherein the wireless  
2 communication device is a handheld computer.

1                   24. A user interface for a handheld computer, comprising:  
2 a display providing a list of indicators corresponding to a plurality of local  
3 area computing devices with which communication is possible;  
4 wherein the list is sorted by at least one of distance and direction from  
5 the handheld computer.

1                   25. The method of claim 24, wherein the display is a  
2 touch screen.

1                   26. The method of claim 24, wherein the handheld  
2 computer is configured to communicate with the plurality of local area  
3 computing devices utilizing a Bluetooth standard.

1                   27. The method of claim 24, wherein the handheld  
2 computer is configured to communicate with the plurality of local area  
3 computing devices utilizing an IEEE 802.11 standard.

1                   28. The method of claim 24, wherein the handheld  
2 computer is configured to communicate with the plurality of local wireless  
3 devices utilizing RF signals.

1                   29. The method of claim 24, wherein the handheld  
2 computer is configured to communicate with the plurality of local wireless  
3 devices utilizing infrared signals.

1                   30. The method of claim 24, wherein the information  
2 necessary to sort the list by distance is provided by electronic pinging  
3 between the handheld computer and the plurality of local area computing  
4 devices.

1                   31. The method of claim 24, wherein the information  
2 necessary to sort the list by at least one of distance and direction is  
3 provided by electronic pinging between the handheld computer and the  
4 plurality of other local area computing devices.

1                   32. The method of claim 24, further comprising the step  
2 of choosing one or more of the listed identifiers and sharing information  
3 with the local area computing device corresponding to the chosen  
4 identifier.